

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT M 00253 210529Z  
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 ACDA-12 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01  
CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DLOS-09 DODE-00  
DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 SOE-02 DOE-11 FMC-01 TRSE-00  
H-01 INR-10 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00  
NSC-05 NSF-01 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 /137 W

-----104069 210534Z /13

R 202245Z FEB 78  
FM AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3064  
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
AMEMBASSY SUVA  
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: EFIS, PLOS, XP BP  
SUBJECT: SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL FISHERIES AGENCY

1. SUMMARY: EMBOFF DISCUSSED PROPOSED SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL FISHERIES AGENCY WITH SOLOMON ISLANDS HEAD OF GOVERNMENT AND OTHER KEY OFFICIALS. THEY HAD BEEN UNAWARE OF DETAILS OF USG POSITION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES AND WE BELIEVE THEY MAY BE INFLUENCED TOWARDS U.S. VIEWS. EXPATRIATE ADVISOR, GENERALLY OPPOSED TO U.S. POSITION, RAISED SEVERAL SUBSTANTIVE QUESTIONS (PARA 3) ON WHICH EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENTAL GUIDANCE IN ORDER TO CONTINUE DIALOGUE. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING VISIT TO HONIARA, EMBOFF DISCUSSED PROPOSED SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL FISHERIES AGENCY WITH CHIEF MINISTER, MINISTER FOR FOREIGN TRADE, INDUSTRY AND LABOR, HIS ACTING PERMANENT SECRETARY, AND PRINCIPAL FISHERIES OFFICER,  
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PAGE 02 PORT M 00253 210529Z

MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES. ONLY ACTING PERMANENT SECRETARY AND FISHERIES OFFICER, BOTH EXPATRIATES, HAD CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF U.S. POSITION ON COASTAL STATE JURISDICTION OVER HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES AND REASONS THEREFORE. PRESENTATION OF OUR POSITION SEEMED TO EMBOFF TO CREATE REAL DOUBTS IN MINDS OF ALL MINISTERS WITH RESPECT TO GSI'S PRESENT POLICY, THAT OF ESSENTIALLY

FOLLOWING GPNG LEAD. THEY APPEARED TO BE PARTICULARLY IMPRESSED WITH ARGUMENT THAT MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION WOULD BEST BE HANDLED THROUGH INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT COVERING TUNA AS IT MOVES THROUGH WATERS OF SEVERAL NATIONS.

3. EXPATRIATE ADVISORS ARE IN CONTACT WITH GPNG LOS EXPERT GEOFFREY DABB AND ARE BELIEVED TO BE INFLUENCED TO LARGE DEGREE BY HIM. HOWEVER, FISHERIES OFFICER SHOWED SOME FLEXIBILITY IN DISCUSSIONS. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE ON FOLLOWING POINTS RAISED BY HIM.

A. IF GSI CHANGES ITS POSITION ON COASTAL STATE JURISDICTION, IS THERE ANY CHANCE OF A QUID PRO QUO SUCH AS A REDUCTION OF DUTIES ON TUNA EXPORTED TO U.S.?

B. FISHERIES OFFICER DID NOT KNOW HOW PROPOSED SP FISHERIES AGENCY WOULD HANDLE FOREIGN SHIPS FISHING IN AREA WATERS. FOR EXAMPLE, WOULD THERE BE A MAXIMUM NUMBER OF VESSELS OF ANY ONE FLAG PERMITTED TO FISH SOLOMON ISLAND WATERS? IF THERE WERE TO BE SUCH LIMITS, WOULD HALF THE SHIPS OF A 50-50 JOINT VENTURE (I.E. HALF U.S., HALF PAPUA NEW GUINEAN) BE CONSIDERED U.S. SHIPS? PHWAS HIS ASSUMPTION THAT THERE WOULD BE COUNTRY QUOTAS, NOT ONLY WITH RESPECT TO TONNAGE BUT ALSO WITH RESPECT TO THE NUMBER OF SHIPS ANY FOREIGN STATE COULD SEND INTO THE WATERS OF ANY MEMBER OF THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 PORT M 00253 210529Z

SP FISHERIES AGENCY.

C. WOULD THE SP FISHERIES AGENCY REGULATE THE TYPES OF VESSELS USED TO FISH? GSI IS WORRIED ABOUT "SUPER-SEINERS" COMING IN.

4. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE IN ORDER TO RESPOND. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THEY REALLY EXPECT TO QUID PRO QUO IN THE FORM OF A TARIFF CONCESSION BUT A REPOSE WHICH MIGHT ALLAY SOME OF THEIR FEARS MIGHT WEAN THEM AWAY FROM THE PNG POSITION. THE EMBASSY IS AWARE THAT THE SP FISHERIES AGENCY HAS NOT ESTABLISHED REGULATIONS, OR EVEN AGREED TO REGULATIONS AS YET. HOWEVER, IT HOPES THAT THE DEPARTMENT MIGHT BE ABLE TO PROVIDE GUIDANCE ON THE BASIS OF EITHER PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS HELD IN SUVA LAST NOVEMBER OR ON U.S. EXPERIENCE IN EXISTING INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS REGULATING TUNA ELSEWHERE. OLMSTED

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FISHERIES, POLICIES  
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**Draft Date:** 20 feb 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Review Markings:**  
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